(b) if so, to what extent this has been welcomed by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government is not aware of the reaction of the State Government.

Health project to improve life span of women

2039. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a health project to improve the life span of women and bring down the high rate of infant mortality in Orissa; if so, the details of the project;

(b) whether under this project it is also proposed to improve literacy rate among women; and

(c) the progress achieved in its implementation till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, which aims at bringing down infant and maternal mortality and improving the health status of young children and pregnant women, has been under implementation since Oct., 1997 in all States of the country including Orissa. The interventions which focus on bringing down infant mortality include immunization against six vaccine preventable disease, essential new born care, control of deaths due to diarrhoea and pneumonia, prophylaxis of Vitamin-A deficiency and promotion of exclusive breast feeding. The interventions focused on pregnant women include, essential obstetric care promotion of institutional and safe deliveries, provision of emergency obstetric care and referral transportation for women, from indegent families requiring emergency care.

The Government of Orissa have launched infant mortality reduction mission w.e.f. 15.8.2001 to accelerate the decline of infant mortality from 97/1000 live births to 60/1000 live births by 2005. Under the mission, steps have been initiated by Government of Orissa to improve antenatal care services including protection of pregnant women against malaria, improve institutional and safe deliveries, new born care, ensure complete immunization, ensure early detection of cases of pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition, measles and providing referral and basic curative services by strengthening the health services.

(b) Improving literacy rate, as such, is not a component of the programme. However, awareness and education of women and families on health issues is undertaken through the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) component of the RCH Programme.

(c) The IMR of Orissa has shown a decline from 97/1000 live birth in 2001 to 87/1000 live birth in 2002.

Vacant posts of SCs/STs

2040. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various posts belonging to SCs/STs and backward classes lying vacant in her Ministry/Departments and its subordinate offices as on the 30th June, 2003, category-wise alongwith the date since these are lying vacant and the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.